Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 61 and 64-67 without prejudice. Please amend claims 62, 63, 68 and 69 as follows. Please add new claims 70-74 as follows. The changes in the claims from their immediate prior version are shown with ~~strikethrough~~ or [[double brackets]] for deleted matter and underlines for added matter. A complete listing of the claims with proper claim identifiers follows.

Listing of Claims

1-14 (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the phase change material comprises a material that changes form a liquid to a solid due to a change in temperature.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the phase change material changes from a liquid to a solid due to a chemical reaction.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the phase change material comprises a thermosetting material or a thermoplastic material.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the phase change material includes ceramic particles.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the phase change material has a coefficient of linear thermal expansion of less than $2x10^{-5}$ in/in/ºF throughout the range of 0-250°F.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the phase change material has a coefficient of linear thermal expansion of less than $1.5x10^{-5}$ in/in/ºF throughout the range of 0-250°F.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the phase change material has a coefficient of linear thermal expansion of between about $0.8x10^{-5}$ in/in/ºF and about $1.3x10^{-5}$ in/in/ºF throughout the range of 0-250°F.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the phase change material has a thermal conductivity of at least 0.7 watts/meterºK at 23°C.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the phase change material has a dielectric strength of at least 250 volts/mil.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the phase change material has a coefficient of linear thermal expansion in the X, Y and Z directions, wherein the coefficient of linear thermal expansion is lowest in the X direction, and wherein the coefficient of linear thermal expansion in the Y and Z directions is no more than four times the coefficient of linear thermal expansion in the X direction.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the body features comprise flanges, lips, grooves and connectors.

29-31 (Canceled)

32. (Previously presented) A method of manufacturing base plates for miniature hard disc drives comprising:

a) providing a metal strip to be formed into a plurality of base plates; and

b) feeding the metal strip continuously through an injection molding machine to sequentially injection mold a monolithic body layer of phase change material on one or more surfaces of the metal strip to form said plurality of base plates for miniature hard disc drives, wherein said monolithic body forms body features on each base plate.

33-59 (Canceled)

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the metal strip is used as a carrier.

61. (Canceled)

62. (Currently amended) The method of claim 32 wherein the metal strip has apertures which are [[located and]] configured in a manner such that [[they locate the base plate for subsequent steps]] the metal strip can be handled by a machine, other than an injection molding machine, that is used in a manufacturing process of a hard disc drive.

63. (Currently amended) The method of claim 32 wherein the body features on each base plate [[including]] include sidewalls, and each sidewall includes a longitudinal groove in the outside surface of the sidewall.

64-67. (Canceled)

68. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[61]] 69 wherein the base plate has extractable particles greater than 0.5 micrometers in size of less than ten thousand particles per milliliter.

69. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing base plates for miniature hard disc drives comprising:

a) providing a metal strip to be formed into a plurality of base plates; and

b) feeding the metal strip [[continuously]] through an injection molding machine to [[sequentially]] injection mold a monolithic body layer of phase change material on one or more surfaces of the metal strip to form said plurality of base plates for miniature hard disc drives, wherein said monolithic body forms body features on each base plate, each base plate being generally rectangular and the body features on each base plate including sidewalls along at least two opposite sides of the base plate.

70. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein the body features on each base plate including sidewalls, and each sidewall includes a longitudinal groove in the outside surface of the sidewall configured such that hard disc drives made from the base plates are compatible with devices using Type I Flash memory devices.

71. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein the body features on each base plate including sidewalls, and each sidewall includes a longitudinal groove in the outside surface of the sidewall configured such that hard disc drives made from the base plates are compatible with devices using Type II Flash memory devices.

72. (New) The method of claim 69 wherein each sidewall includes a longitudinal groove in the outside surface of the sidewall configured such that hard disc drives made from the base plates are compatible with devices using Type I Flash memory devices.

73. (New) The method of claim 69 wherein each sidewall includes a longitudinal groove in the outside surface of the sidewall configured such that hard disc drives made from the base plates are compatible with devices using Type II Flash memory devices.

74. (New) The method of claim 69 wherein the metal strip has apertures which are configured in a manner such the metal strip can be handled by a machine, other than an injection molding machine, that is used in a manufacturing process of a hard disc drive.